

OPINION 1495

Colydium castaneum Herbst, 1797 (currently *Tribolium castaneum*; Insecta, Coleoptera): specific name conserved

Ruling

(1) Under the plenary powers the specific name *navalis* Fabricius, 1775, as published in the binomen *Dermestes navalis*, is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy.

(2) The name *Tribolium* MacLeay, 1825 (gender: neuter), type species by monotypy *Colydium castaneum* Herbst, 1797, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.

(3) The name *castaneum* Herbst, 1797, as published in the binomen *Colydium castaneum* (specific name of the type species of *Tribolium* MacLeay, 1825) is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

(4) The name *navalis* Fabricius, 1775, as published in the binomen *Dermestes navalis* and as suppressed in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 2575

An application for the conservation of *Tribolium castaneum* Herbst, 1797 was received from Mr R. D. Pope (*British Museum (Natural History)*, London) and Dr J. C. Watt (*Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Auckland, New Zealand*) on 26 June 1986. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 43: 363–365 (December 1986). Notice of the case was given to ten general and nine specialist serials.

Dr L. B. Holthuis raised two questions:

(i) why did the applicant select an incorrectly labelled specimen from the Banks collection in the British Museum (Natural History) as lectotype of *Dermestes navalis* when clearly labelled specimens are in the Fabrician collection in Copenhagen (cf. para. 5 of the application)?

(ii) why did Champion (1896) 'assert' that *D. navalis* was not a synonym of *Colydium castaneum* (cf. para. 4)?

In reply, Mr R. D. Pope said:

(i) Fabricius (1775, and in later works) stated that his type material of *D. navalis* belonged to Banks, so that anyone consulting the original literature would be directed to the Banks collection.

(ii) Champion (1896) noticed that in 1792 Fabricius had stated that *D. navalis* had the last two antennal segments forming a club, unlike the three-segmented club of what was in 1896 (before Waterhouse) called '*Tribolium ferrugineum*' (including *C. castaneum*). However, Champion overlooked the fact that in 1801 Fabricius, after further examination, synonymised *navalis* with *ferrugineum*.

The above questions and replies were circulated on the Commission voting papers.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 December 1987 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 43: 364. At the close of the voting period on 1 March 1988 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 21: Alvarado, Bayer, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Dupuis, Halvorsen, Heppell, Holthuis, Kabata, Kraus, Lehtinen, Melville, Mroczkowski, Ride, Schuster, Starobogatov, Thompson, Trjapitzin, Uéno, Willink

Negative votes — 2: Hahn and Savage.

No votes were returned by Bernardi and Gruchy.

Hahn considered that the synonymy between *navalis* and *castaneum* is not proved adequately, and that although *castaneum* could be given precedence over *navalis* the latter should not be suppressed. Savage favoured the proposal but voted against because he objected to the selected lectotype of *Dermestes navalis* and its lack of data. Holthuis also objected to the selection of this lectotype, and pointed out that it was unnecessary since the name *navalis* was being suppressed.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

castaneum, *Colydium*, Herbst, 1797, *Natursystem aller Insecten: die Käfer*, vol. 7, p. 282.

navalis, *Dermestes*, Fabricius, 1775, *Systema entomologiae*, p. 56.

Tribolium MacLeay, 1825, *Annulosa Javanica*, p. 47.